

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### **Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A switching device for the connection of a conductor via a ring terminal, comprising:  
a preassembled component including a ~~holder~~ holder, having guide grooves formed on opposing sides thereof, and a screw-with-washer assembly, the screw-with-washer assembly being held by the holder and forming, together with a connection piece, a clamping point for the conductor connection via the ring terminal, the holder being movable linearly between an open and a closed state of the clamping point and including a spring element applied to the holder, which holds the holder in the open state when the clamping point is released.
2. (Previously Presented) The switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the component is not provided with a cover.
3. (Currently Amended) The switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the component is guided and held via the guide grooves during assembly.
4. (Currently Amended) The switching device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a housing, wherein the component is secured in the housing to form a the complete clamping device ~~is in the form of a module, the switching device being plugged on, and the spring element being prestressed over a narrow point in the switching device.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The switching device as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 4, wherein the component is guided into the housing and held via the guide grooves on the component during assembly.
6. (Currently Amended) The switching device as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 5, wherein the ~~complete assembled~~ clamping device is in the form of a module, the ~~switching device~~ module being attachable to the switching device ~~plugged on, and the spring element being prestressed over a narrow point in the switching device.~~

7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) A switching device for the connection of a conductor via a ring terminal, comprising:
  - a housing supporting a connection piece; and
  - a holder supporting a screw-with-washer assembly;wherein the holder is mounted on the housing for linear movement between
  - an open state in which the screw-with-washer assembly is spaced apart from the connection piece, and
  - a closed state in which the screw-with-washer assembly is screw coupled to the connection piece.
9. (New) The switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the clamping device is in the form of a module that is attachable to the switching device, and the spring element is prestressed over a narrow point protruding from the holder.
10. (New) The switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spring element is prestressed over a narrow point protruding from the housing.
11. (New) The switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder includes a round opening matched to a head of the screw for accommodating the screw-with-washer assembly.
12. (New) The switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder includes a bottom surface and a protrusion extending from the bottom surface.
13. (New) The switching device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the spring element is applied to the holder via the protrusion.
14. (New) The switching device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the guide grooves engage a guide web formed on side walls of the housing.